

Appl. No.: 10/755,638  
Art Unit: 3711 Docket No.: B03-85  
Reply to Office Action of December 9, 2004

### REMARKS

Claims 3-19 appear in this application for the Examiner's review and consideration. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to provide proper antecedent basis for the elastomer recitation. The Examiner has acknowledged that claims 7, 8 and 17 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claims 7, 8 and 17 have been re-written in independent form. Claims 3-6, 9-16 and 18-19 have been amended to depend from independent claim 7. No new matter has been added by these amendments.

Claims 1-2 and 20 have been canceled without prejudice to Applicants' right to file one or more continuing applications directed to any subject matter not presently claimed. The rejections of these claims in the Office Action are now moot and Applicants request that the rejections be withdrawn.

### Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Second Paragraph

Claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Examiner stated that there is insufficient antecedent basis for the recitation of "the elastomer". Claim 7 has been amended into independent form to include the recitations of claims 1 and 2. The recitation of "polymer" from claim 1 has been amended to recite "elastomeric polymer" and the recitations of "elastomer" in claims 6 and 7 have been amended to recite "the elastomeric polymer", thereby providing proper antecedent basis.

The rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, are therefore believed to have been overcome. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal thereof.

### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Examiner for stating that claims 8 and 17 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and that claim 7 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form and if the 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph rejection was overcome. Applicants have rewritten claims 7, 8 and 17 in independent form. Thus, claims 7, 8 and 17 should now be allowable.

Claims 3-6, 9-16 and 18-19 have been amended to depend from allowable independent claim 7. As such, the rejections of these claims should be moot in view of their dependency on an allowable claim. Thus, claims 3-6, 9-16 and 18-19 should now be in condition for allowance.

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### Conclusion

Based on the remarks set forth above, Applicants believe that all of the rejections have been overcome and the claims of the subject application are in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any further concerns or believe that a discussion with the Applicants' attorney would further the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to call the attorney at the number below.

No fee is believed to be due for this submission. However, should any required fees be due, please charge them to Acushnet Company Deposit Account No. 502309.

Respectfully submitted,

7 Feb 05  
Date

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